Agenda Date: 08/16/06 Agenda Item: VB



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 www.bpu.state.nj.us

WATER

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT PETITION OF NEW JERSEY AMERICAN WATER COMPANY, INC., ELIZABETHTOWN WATER COMPANY, AND THE MOUNT HOLLY WATER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF INCREASED TARIFF RATES AND CHARGES FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF REVISIONS

ORDER FURTHER SUSPENDING INCREASES, CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS IN RATES FOR SERVICE

BPU DOCKET NO. WR06030257 OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 2635-06

(Service List Attached)

BY THE BOARD:

On March 31, 2006, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, Petitioners, New Jersey American Water Company, Inc¹., Elizabethtown Water Company², Mount Holly Water Company³, all public utilities of the State of New Jersey subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utilities (Board) jointly filed a petition seeking to increase their rates for water service and wastewater service amounting to \$98,993,182 or 22.30%.⁴ The increase in rates was proposed to become effective on April 30, 2006. On April 17, 2006, the Board transmitted this matter to the Office of Administrative Law for hearing. On, April 27, 2006, the Board suspended these rates until August 30, 2006, pending a determination on the hearing on the justness and reasonableness of Petitioner's rates.

¹ New Jersey American Water Company serves approximately 366,000 water customers and 27,000 wastewater customers in certain portions of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Essex, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Union and Warren Counties, New Jersey.

² Elizabethtown Water Company serves approximately 208,000 water customers in certain portions of Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris and Union Counties, New Jersey.

³ Mount Holly Water Company serves approximately 16,250 water customers in portions of Burlington and Ocean Counties, New Jersey.

⁴ On March 29, 2006, the Petitioners filed a separate petition seeking to merge all three companies. (See: <u>I/M/O the Joint Petition of New Jersey American Water Company, Inc., Elizabethtown Water Company, and the Mount Holly Water Company for Approval of the Merger of Elizabethtown Water Company and Mount Holly Water Company into New Jersey American Water Company and for Related Authorizations, Docket No. WM06030253)</u>

In light of the fact that this proceeding is pending before the Office of Administrative Law, the Board <u>HEREBY ORDERS</u>, pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:2-21, that the proposed revisions be and are hereby further suspended until December 30, 2006, unless the Board, prior to that date, makes a determination disposing of the petition.

DATED: 8/18/06

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BY:

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ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public

Utilitie

Service List

I/M/O New Jersey American Water Company, Inc., Elizabethtown Water Company, and the Mount Holly Water Company

Docket No. WR06030257

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